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## TV feature on Hyde School shows innovative approach

By Faith Woodman

BATH — Since Hyde School was featured on the Phil Donahue television show Jan. 7 in Chicago, the school has received more than 2,000 inquiries from viewing audiences across the country. The syndicated hour-long program was shown to Maine audiences Friday on WGAN-TV.

At a preview of the show held last week at Hyde School for the press and several school officials and faculty members, Hyde spokesmen said they were concerned about the school's image here and hoped that image would change once the public viewed the show.

Host Phil Donahue devoted the entire show to Hyde School, interviewing Joseph Gauld, the secondary school's founder; Edward Legg, headmaster; Hyde student Michelle Correa and former student Laura Denton; and Michelle's father and Laura's mother.

The audience also joined in the questioning, probing Hyde representatives about the school's controversial philosophy and character building program.

The interviews and film clips of various Hyde School activities represented an attempt to portray Hyde's educational philosophy.

Michelle Correa told the television audience how she disliked Hyde when she was sent there by her parents nearly four years ago, how she and another student ran away from Hyde and "got caught with a car that wasn't ours," and how Gauld's and her parents' reaction and subsequent treatment of her changed her life.

(Michelle will be familiar to those who have attended Hyde School's bicentennial production, "America's Spirit," in which she

portrayed Helen Keller).

Michelle said Hyde School "forced me to look at myself." Both she and Laura Denton and their parents said that Hyde had helped them form closer relationships and communicate more easily. Hyde holds bi-monthly seminars with parents in a number of nationwide locations.

Laura told how she had always been able to get her way with her parents, but found that at Hyde School she couldn't always have her own way. The school "made me a better person," she said.

When asked if Hyde was indoctrinating its students, Gauld responded that the school is trying to help people find their "uniqueness," which he said was the opposite of indoctrination.

Before the showing Gauld said, "I think American education needs a real shake-up." He called the nation's educational system a "disaster area." Gauld thinks that Hyde offers a necessary educational alternative.

In Maine "Hyde is seen as a problem kids' school," said Gauld — "or a prep school," Legg added. "If people in Maine can see how the country relates to Hyde, hopefully," Gauld said, "we can begin to develop a larger community."

The Hyde School concept previously has been featured nationally on the Today Show and The David Susskind Show, and in Time magazine, The New York Times and The Washington Post.

Gauld said he has recently completed a book based on the principle that "every human being has a unique potential." The book is a collection of stories on parents, teachers and students collected by Gauld since he founded Hyde 11 years ago. It will be published by Bantam Books in November, 1977.